AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.173(d) , matter to be omitted is [bracketed] and matter to be added is underlined.

1. (Once Amended) A swallowing-assistive drink for assisting an individual in swallowing a medication, the swallowing-assistive drink comprising:

water and an adhesive paste which form a viscous liquid having a viscosity in the range of from 1,000-25,000 cP at 20°C; and

a medicine enwrapped in the viscous liquid;

wherein said swallowing-assistive drink has been packaged in a prepared form in the absence of a medication prior to enwrapping the medicine.

2. (Original) The swallowing-assistive drink of claim 1 wherein the adhesive paste is at least one selected from the group consisting of agar, carrageenan, gellan gum, furcellaran, gelatin, pectin, curdlan, locust bean gum, tara gum, guar gum, xanthan gum, arginic acid, arginic acid salt, azotobacter vinelandi gum, cassia gum, psyllium seed gum, tamarind gum, CMCNa, CMCCa, whey protein starch and modified starch.

3. (Original) The swallowing-assistive drink of claim 1 wherein the swallowing-assistive drink contains in the range of from 0.1-5.0 wt % adhesive paste and in the range of from 80.0-99.9 wt % water.

4. (Original) The swallowing-assistive drink of claim 1 wherein the medicine is at least one of a tablet, a capsule, a granule, and powder.

5. (Original) The swallowing-assistive drink of claim 1 wherein the medicine is a mixture of solid formulations and at least one of granules and powder.

6. (Twice Amended) A swallowing-assistive drink for helping an individual swallow a medication, the swallowing-assistive drink comprising:

water and an adhesive paste which forms a gelatinoid having a gel strength in the range of from 10-100 g/cm^2 at 20°C; and

a medicine enwrapped in the gelatinoid;

wherein said swallowing-assistive drink is packaged in a prepared form in the absence of a medication prior to enwrapping the medicine.

7. (Original) The swallowing-assistive drink of claim 6 wherein the adhesive paste is at least one selected from the group consisting of agar, carrageenan, gellan gum, furcellaran, gelatin, pectin, curdlan, locust bean gum, tara gum, guar gum, xanthan gum, arginic acid, arginic acid salt, azotobacter vinelandi gum, cassia gum, psyllium seed gum, tamarind gum, CMCNa, CMCCa, whey protein starch and modified starch.

8. (Original) The swallowing-assistive drink of claim 6 wherein the swallowing-assistive drink contains in the range of from 0.1-5.0 wt % adhesive paste and in the range of from 80.0-99.9 wt % water.

9. (Original) The swallowing-assistive drink of claim 6 wherein the medicine is at least one of a tablet, a capsule, a granule, and powder.

10. (Original) The swallowing-assistive drink of claim 6 wherein the medicine is a mixture of solid formulations and at least one of granules and powder.

11. (Twice Amended) A method for assisting an individual in taking a medicine by swallowing the medicine, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a swallowing-assistive drink in a prepared form containing water and an adhesive paste which forms a viscous liquid having a viscosity in the range of from 1,000-25,000 cP at 20°C, wherein the prepared form is in the absence of a medicine; and

(b) enwrapping the medicine in the viscous liquid.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein step (b) comprises enwrapping at least one of a tablet, a capsule, a granule, and powder in the viscous liquid.

13. (Thrice Amended) A method for assisting an individual in taking a medicine by swallowing the medicine, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a swallowing-assistive drink in a prepared form containing water and an adhesive paste which forms a gelatinoid having a gel strength in the range of from 10-100 g/cm^2 at 20°C, wherein the prepared form is in the absence of a medicine; and

(b) enwrapping the medicine in the gelatinoid.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein step (b) comprises enwrapping at least one of a tablet, a capsule, a granule, and powder in the gelatinoid.

15. (Thrice Amended) A method for taking a medication, comprising the steps of:

providing a viscous swallowing-assistive material in prepared form, wherein the swallowing-assistive material has a viscosity of 1,000-25,000 cP at 20°C, and wherein the prepared form is in the absence of a medicine;

combining the swallowing-assistive material with a medicine;

wherein the medicine is enwrapped within the swallowing-assistive material; and

swallowing the combination after the combining step.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15 wherein the medicine is at least one of a tablet, a capsule, a granule, and powder.

17. (Thrice Amended) A method for taking a medication, comprising the steps of:

providing a viscous swallowing-assistive material in prepared form, wherein the swallowing-assistive material has a gel strength of 10-100 g/cm^2 at 20°C, and wherein the prepared form is in the absence of a medicine;

combining the swallowing-assistive material with a medicine;

wherein the medicine is enwrapped within the swallowing-assistive material; and

swallowing the combination after the combining step.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17 wherein the medicine is at least one of a tablet, a capsule, a granule, and powder.

19. (Thrice Amended) A method for swallowing a solid material, comprising the steps of:

providing a viscous swallowing-assistive material in prepared form, wherein the swallowing-assistive material has a viscosity of 1,000-25,000 cP at 20°C, and wherein said prepared form is in the absence of the solid material;

combining the swallowing-assistive material with the solid material;

wherein the solid material is enwrapped within the swallowing-assistive material; and

swallowing the combination after the combining step.

20. (Thrice Amended) A method for swallowing a solid material, comprising the steps of:

providing a viscous swallowing-assistive material in prepared form, wherein the swallowing-assistive material has a gel strength of 10-100 g/cm^2 at 20°C, and wherein the prepared form is in the absence of the solid material;

combining the swallowing-assistive material with the solid material;

wherein the solid material is enwrapped within the swallowing-assistive material; and

swallowing the combination after the combining step.

21. (Previously Presented) A swallowing-assistive material suitable for combining with a medicine, comprising:

water; and

one or more of the following viscosity building agents: agar, carrageenan, gellan gum, furcellaran, gelatin, pectin, curdlan, locust bean gum, tara gum, guar gum, xanthan gum, arginic acid, arginic acid salt, azotobacter vinelandi gum, cassia gum, psyllium seed gum, tamarind gum, CMCNa, CMCCa, whey protein starch and modified starch;

wherein said swallowing-assistive material is in a prepared form uncombined with a medicine, and comprises a viscous liquid having a viscosity in the range of from 1,000-25,000 cP at 20°C.

22. (Previously Presented) The swallowing-assistive material of claim 19 wherein the swallowing-assistive material comprises 0.1-5.0 wt % viscosity building agent and 80.0-99.9 wt % water.

23. (Previously Presented) A swallowing-assistive material suitable for combining with a medicine, comprising:

water; and

one or more of the following viscosity building agents: agar, carrageenan, gellan gum, furcellaran, gelatin, pectin, curdlan, locust bean gum, tara gum, guar gum, xanthan gum, arginic acid, arginic acid salt, azotobacter vinelandi gum, cassia gum, psyllium seed gum, tamarind gum, CMCNa, CMCCa, whey protein starch and modified starch;

wherein said swallowing-assistive material is in a prepared form uncombined with medicine and comprises a viscous liquid having a gel strength of 10-100 g/cm^2 at 20°C.

24. (Previously Presented) The swallowing-assistive material of claim 21 wherein the swallowing-assistive material comprises 0.1-5.0 wt % viscosity building agent and 80.0-99.9 wt % water.